

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7915

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12499

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BT

SUBJ: BHUTAN: INDIA REFUSES ENTRY PERMITS: COMMENTS
ON BANGLADESH

REF: NEW DELHI 3946

1. REFTEL REPORTED THAT SINCE MID-1975 THE GOI
INCREASED ITS EFFORTS TO LIMIT BHUTAN'S ACCESS TO
FOREIGN (NON-INDIAN) TECHNICIANS THROUGH ITS CONTROL
OF THE REQUIRED "INNER LINE" TRANSIT PERMITS. ACCORDING
TO AN OFFICER OF THE ROYAL BHUTAN MISSION HERE, THE
GOI CONTINUES ITS ANTIPATHY TOWARDS FOREIGN TECHNI-
CIANS' WORKING IN BHUTAN. RECENTLY THE GOI DENIED
ICAO TECHNICIANS ENTRY PRMTS, WHICH THE BHUTANESE
EMBOFF INTERPRETS AS INDICATIVE OF A GOI POLICY
AGAINST BHUTAN'S DEVELOPING ITS AVIATION FACILITIES.
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THE GOI, HE SAID, DOES NOT WANT A LOT OF PLANES

FLYING AROUND IN WHAT IT REGARDS AS AN AREA IMPORTANT
TO ITS SECURITY.

2. OUR BHUTANESE SOURCE SAID THAT IN JULY THE GOI
DENIED SEVERAL BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPONSORED SCHOOL
TEACHERS ENTRY PERMITS. THE BRITISH HAVE COMPLAINED
TO THE GOI, BUT THE BHUTANESE DOES NOT THINK THAT THE
GOI WILL REVERSE ITSELF.

3. THE BHUTANESE ATTITUDE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF
PHILOSOPHIC RESIGNATION TO THE FACT THAT IT IS AT
THE GOI'S MERCY ON THIS ISSUE. THEY ARE, HOWEVER,
CONCERNED THAT THE GOI POLICY COULD UNDERMINE THE
UNDP'S ENTIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BHUTAN.

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ABOUT BANGLADESH ACCUSATIONS OF
INDIAN-AIDED INCURSIONS, THE BHUTANESE EMBOFF (WHO
WAS THE KING'S CONTROL OFFICER WHEN HE PASSED
THROUGH INDIA ON HIS WAY TO COLOMBO) SAID THAT HE
THOUGHT THE INDIANS WERE INDEED HARASSING THE BDG.
HE DESCRIBED INDIA'S NEIGHBORS AS LIVING IN THE
SHADOW OF A GIANT WHO COULD HURT THEM WHEN IT
STIRRED TO SCRATCH ITSELF. AT NO TIME DID HE ALLUDE
TO INDIA'S "GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY" PRAISED BY HIS
KING AT THE COLOMBO NAC.

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